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EXAMINER

TRUONG, CAM Y T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2162

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/936,047

Applicant(s)

BECKER ET AL.

Examiner

Cam Y T Truong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 June 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 in the amendment filed on 6/16/2004.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this Office Action.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

3. A descriptive textual label for each numbered element in these figures would be needed to fully and better understand these figures without substantial analysis of the detailed specification. Any structural detail that is of sufficient importance to be described should be shown in the drawing. Optionally, applicant may wish to include a table next to the present figure to fulfill this requirement. See 37 CFR 1.83. 37 CFR 1.84(n)(o) is recited below:

"(n) Symbols. Graphical drawing symbols may be used for conventional elements when appropriate. The elements for which such symbols and labeled representations are used must be adequately identified in the specification. Known devices should be illustrated by symbols which have a universally recognized conventional meaning and are generally accepted in the art. Other symbols which are not universally recognized may be used, subject to approval by the Office, if they are not likely to be confused with existing conventional symbols, and if they are readily identifiable.

(o) Legends. Suitable descriptive legends may be used, or may be required by the Examiner, where necessary for understanding of the drawing, subject to approval by the Office. They should contain as few words as possible."

The drawings are objected to because elements V, O1, O2 On, OE. O11, O12, O13 and O14 in figure 1 and V, OE1 in fig. 2 are labeled in foreign language. The foreign language for these elements does not give a viewer to fully understand without substantial analysis of the detailed specification.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: "date" on page 2, line 6, should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinberg et al (USP 5974572) in view of Bentley et al (or hereinafter "Bentley") (US 5987242).

As to claim 1, Weinberg teaches an automation system (col. 7, lines 45-49) comprising:

"at least one automation object" as a site graph object in object model of automation Astra corresponds generally to a map of a web site. The site graph object includes nodes and links. The site graph object is represented as an automation object (figs. 7&8, col. 19, lines 7-10; col. 10, lines 25-26);

"a directory for storing object names of the at least one automation object" as a directory tree or map stores node object names such as xunner, uparrow and Mercury

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Interactive Product of the site graph object. Node object names are represented as object names of the site graph object (figs. 3&8, col. 10, lines 64-66);

“an object name assigned to a directory entry which includes first information data as a reference to the at least one automation object” as node object name xunner is assigned to a leaf node of a tree. The node object name Xunner contains incoming links. As illustrated in fig. 22, an analogous display format is used for displaying the incoming links to a node. Leaf node objects or children node objects link back to their parents. The above information shows when the incoming link of the node object name xunner links back to the node object 44, it implies that the incoming link links back to the site map object. The incoming link is represented as a reference to the site graph object (figs. 3&22, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines30-33),

“second information data as a description of technological functionality” as the node object name Xunner contains the outbound links. To display a node's outgoing links, the user selects the node with the mouse and then clicks on the show outgoing links button 72 on the tool bar. Astra then displays all outgoing links from the node. The above information shows that the outgoing links of a node object is a description of functionality of the node object. The outgoing links of the node object name xunner is represented as description of technological functionality (figs. 3&6, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines30-33), and

“third information data as a description of interfaces of the at least one automation object” as new URLs or modified URLs are one of descriptions of site graph objects in a tree (fig. 21, col. 30, lines 52-59);

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“wherein once entry into the directory has taken place, the at least one automation object can be viewed by at least one of other users and tools” as in fig. 3, a user can view the site map including parent node object 44 and seven leaf node objects 48. Once the map has been generated, the user can interactively navigate the map using various navigation tools of Astra GUI, such as scrolling controls 40 and 42 (col. 9, lines 54-57); and,

“wherein the object name of the at least one automation object can be used to request a reference to the at least one automation object” as node object name xunner of parent node object 44 is assigned to a leaf node of a tree. The node object name Xunner contains incoming links. As illustrated in fig. 22, an analogous display format is used for displaying the incoming links to a node. Leaf node objects or children node object link back to their parents. The above information shows an incoming link of the leaf node object name Xunner can be used to request as a reference to the site graph object (figs. 3&22, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines 30-33).

Weinberg does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation “and wherein the at least one automation object can be worked on by a number of users in parallel to create automation solutions”.

Weinberg teaches larger numbers of concurrent visitors access the web site on web servers via Internet or Intranet (fig. 7, col. 32, lines 57-58). Bentley teaches that projects are managed as a single unit by the CMS and are stored in a project database, generally on a networked server, so that concurrent access can be granted to multiple users of the project. To initiate a user session, a user executes a query of the project

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database to extract a subset of the project from the project database into a local database. The extraction is considered a long-term transaction to the project database such that during the user session no further interaction with the project database is required. If changes or additions are made to the extracted model objects during an editing session, such as changes and additions may be posted to the project database at the end of the user session. Changes of the project database at the end of the user session are represented as automation solutions (col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Bentley's teaching of granting concurrent access the project database to multiple users to change the extracted model objects to Weinberg's system in order to support collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects and further allow many users to work together on objects simultaneously.

As to claims 2 and 10, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the directory entry includes fourth information data for listing the names of subcomponents of the at least one automation object" as shown in fig. 6, the system displays a tree. A parent node 88 is displayed at the first level. The leaf node objects are displayed at second level and the second leaf node of the parent node object contains two another leaf node names that are displayed at third level of the tree. The leaf node names of the second leaf node are presented as the names of subcomponents of the at least one automation object (fig. 6, col. 17, lines 28-32).

As to claims 3 and 5, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the automation system includes means for the automatic entry of an automation object into the directory" as Astra automatically scans the Web site and creates a graphic site map showing all of the URLs of the site and the links between these URLs. The layout and display method used by Astra for generating the site map provides a highly intuitive, graphical representation, which allows the user to visualize the layout of the site. As illustrated in fig. 4, a site map is displayed to a user. Each leaf node such as company and 10k.pdf is represented as entry of parent node mercury Interactive Online within site map or tree. Whenever the user selects a node in the upper window 76, the corresponding line in the list view window 78 is automatically highlighted. Each leaf node within site map or tree is represented as automation entry. The site map or tree is represented as the directory. Astra is represented as the automation system (col. 7, lines 45-49; col. 16, lines 60-63).

As to claims 4 and 6-8, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the automation system includes means for indicating that an automation object is no longer available" as a node object 45 of the site map in fig. 3, which is indicated a question mark and implies missing its URL, shows this object node no longer available (col. 10, lines 19-25). Also, any node object on a site map has a deleted URL as indicated in deleted URL box as shown in fig. 21 implies that node object is no longer available too. The node object 45 is represented as automation object and "that a copy of the object

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is being created” as to restore the visual web display view, the user clicks on the VWD button 73. The Visual Web Display View contains node objects. When the system restores the Visual Web Display View, the system restores node objects (fig. 1, col. 12, lines 45-46). Restore means to copy back (Computer Dictionary, page 410, col. Right, lines 1-4).

As to claim 9, Weinberg teaches an automation system (col. 7, lines 45-49) comprising:

“a memory for storing at least one object name of at least one automation object as a directory entry in a directory” as Astra of client computer automatically scans the Web site and creates a graphic site map or tree to show all of the URLs of the site and the links between these URLs. A site graph object in object model of automation Astra corresponds generally to a map of a web site. The above information shows that client computer has included a memory for storing object names such as Xunner and Uparrow. The node object name is represented as object name. The site map is represented as a directory. The site map object is represented as one automation object (fig.8, col. 10, lines 64-66; col. 7, lines 45-49);

“wherein an object name includes, first information data as a reference to the at least one automation object” as node object name Xunner of parent node object 44 is assigned to a leaf node of a tree. The node object name Xunner contains incoming links. As illustrated in fig. 22, an analogous display format is used for displaying the incoming links to a node. Leaf node objects or children node object link back to their

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parents. The above information shows an incoming link of the leaf node object name Xunner that is represented as reference to the parent node object 44 (figs. 3&22, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines30-33),

“second information data as a description of technological functionality” as the node object name Xunner contains outbound links. To display a node’s outgoing links, the user selects the node with the mouse and then clicks on the show outgoing links button 72 on the tool bar. Astra then displays all outgoing links from the node. The above information shows that the outgoing links of a node object is a description of functionality of the node object. The outgoing links of the node object name Xunner is represented as description of technological functionality (figs. 3&6, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines30-33), and

“third information data as a description of an interface of the at least one automation object” as new URLs or modified URLs are one of descriptions of site graph objects in a tree (fig. 21, col. 30, lines 52-59);

“wherein the at least one automation object, when in the directory, is viewable by at least one of another user and tool” as in fig. 3, a user can view tree map including parent node object 44 and seven leaf node objects 48. One the map has been generated, the user can interactively navigate the map using various navigation tools of Astra GUI, such as scrolling controls 40 and 42 (col. 9, lines 54-57); and,

“wherein the object name of the at least one automation object is usable to request a reference to the at least one automation object” as node object name Xunner of parent node object 44 is assigned to a leaf node of a tree. The node object name

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Xunner contains incoming links. As illustrated in fig. 22, an analogous display format is used for displaying the incoming links to a node. Leaf node objects or children node object link back to their parents. The above information shows an incoming link of the leaf node object name Xunner that is represented as reference to the parent node object 44 (figs. 3&22, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines 30-33).

Weinberg does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation “ wherein the at least one automation object is usable by a plurality of users in parallel to create automation solutions”.

Weinberg teaches larger numbers of concurrent visitors access the web site on web servers via Internet or Intranet (fig. 7, col. 32, lines 57-58).

Bentley teaches that projects are managed as a single unit by the CMS and are stored in a project database, generally on a networked server, so that concurrent access can be granted to multiple users of the project. To initiate a user session, a user executes a query of the project database to extract a subset of the project from the project database into a local database. The extraction is considered a long-term transaction to the project database such that during the user session no further interaction with the project database is required. If changes or additions are made to the extracted model objects during an editing session, such as changes and additions may be posted to the project database at the end of the user session. Changes of the project database at the end of the user session are represented as automation solutions (col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-10).

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It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Bentley's teaching of granting concurrent access the project database to multiple users to change the extracted model objects to Weinberg's system in order to support collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects and further allow many users to work together on objects simultaneously.

As to claims 11 and 13, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the automation system further comprises means for the automatic entry of an automation object into the directory" as Astra automatically scans the Web site and creates a graphic site map showing all of the URLs of the site and the links between these URLs. The layout and display method used by Astra for generating the site map provides a highly intuitive, graphical representation, which allows the user to visualize the layout of the site. As illustrated in fig. 4, a site map is displayed to a user. Each leaf node such as company and 10k.pdf is represented as entry of parent node mercury Interactive Online within site map or tree. Whenever the user selects a node in the upper window 76, the corresponding line in the list view window 78 is automatically highlighted. Each leaf node within site map or tree is represented as automation entry. The site map or tree is represented as the directory. Astra is represented as the automation system (col. 7, lines 45-49; col. 16, lines 60-63).

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As to claims 12 and 14-16, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the automation system further comprises means for indicating that an automation object is no longer available" as a node object 45 of the site map in fig. 3, which is indicated a question mark and implies missing its URL, shows this object node no longer available (col. 10, lines 19-25). Also, any node object on a site map has a deleted URL as indicated in deleted URL box as shown in fig. 21 implies that node object is no longer available too. The node object 45 is represented as automation object and "that a copy of the object is being created" as to restore the visual web display view, the user clicks on the VWD button 73. The Visual Web Display View contains node objects. When the system restores the Visual Web Display View, the system restores node objects (fig. 1, col. 12, lines 45-46). Restore means to copy back (Computer Dictionary, page 410, col. Right, lines 1-4).

Conclusion

7. Malone et al (US 5790116) discloses a system that allows users to work together on objects (col. 8, lines 5-10). The subject matter is pertinent to claims 1 and 9.

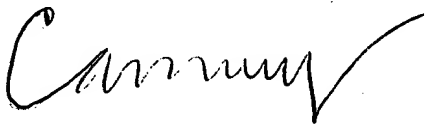
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Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cam-Y Truong
Patent Examiner
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11/3/2004